

Regent receives Indian dairy expert

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday received Chairman and Managing Director of the National Dairy Development Board in India, Dr. Verghese Kurien, who presented a briefing on the Indian experience with regards to transferring India from a country that imported most of its dairy needs into a country with surplus production. Dr. Kurien, who arrived in Jordan at the invitation of Prince Hassan, met with a number of officials at the Ministry of Agriculture, the Jordan Cooperative Organization, and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST). He expressed admiration to the high standard attained by Jordan in fruit and vegetable production. It was also agreed that a Jordanian delegation will visit the milk production cooperative organization in India to get familiarized with the Indian experience. Dr. Kurien delivered a lecture at the HCST on India's expertise in dairy industries. The lecture was attended by the Crown Prince, the Indian ambassador in Amman, Royal Scientific Society President Dr. Jawad Aman and HCST Secretary General Dr. Adnan Badran. Dr. Kurien left Amman for home Monday evening.

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McFarlane: North redid old memos

WASHINGTON (R) — Oliver North rewrote old memos on fund-raising and military aid for the Nicaraguan contras after two congressional committees inquired about his activities. Robert McFarlane testified Monday. McFarlane, the former national security adviser and North's White House boss during the Reagan administration, said he asked North to take another look at six memoranda called from National Security Council (NSC) files in response to inquiries in August 1985 from the House Intelligence Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Latin America. "There was some impression of duplicity" in the memos, McFarlane testified in North's criminal trial. "I thought it gave a distorted impression of the facts." North has pleaded innocent to 12 charges, including lying to Congress and improperly using a tax-exempt charity to collect funds for contra weapons, stemming from his role in the 1983-85 Iran-contra scandal.



Education Minister Nasseruddin Al Assad (Petra photo)

Crown Prince, Syrian minister discuss cooperation in education

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday held talks with visiting Syrian Minister of Higher Education Kamal Sharaf, on Syrian-Jordanian cooperation in education, in the presence of Minister of Higher Education Nasseruddin Al Assad.

Prince Hassan reviewed challenges in the field of education posed to Jordan and Syria and their relations to development, and discussed new trends in education to cope with the present economic circumstances.

The two sides also reviewed means for curtailing educational specializations of which there is a

great abundance of graduates who are still unemployed.

Jordan, Prince Hassan said, "is in the process of initiating departments at its universities designed to guide graduates towards choosing proper careers which are available and useful for community."

He said in this regard coordination can be made with Syria with which Jordanian universities can exchange expertise and information in linking higher education with the society's economic needs.

Sharaf welcomed the idea and voiced his country's readiness to launch cooperation for the be-

nefit of students through their respective universities.

Sharaf said that this step could lead to cooperation in joint economic development projects, such as the construction of Al Wahdah Dam.

Also Monday, Sharaf visited the Amman Community College, which is operated by the Ministry of Higher Education, and was briefed on its programmes and future plans.

The college turns out teachers and engineering technicians.

Later, the minister and his delegation toured a number of archaeological sites in and around Amman.

Israelis seize property, make arrests to harass Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli authorities reopened an Arab village within Jerusalem's boundaries Monday after keeping residents in their homes for five days, arresting 40 Palestinians and confiscating hundreds of electrical appliances in tax raids.

The measures came as the Bush administration was reported to be pressing Israel to limit arrests and ease economic restrictions on Palestinians in order to create a climate more conducive to peace talks.

Policemen said the closure of Issawiya, an Arab village of several thousand, was ordered so police could find and arrest Palestinian youths wanted for anti-Israeli activities.

But residents said the action, during which televisions, hair dryers, irons and vehicles were seized, amounted to harassment.

The curfew in Issawiya, which was incorporated into Jerusalem after the 1967 Middle East war, was the longest imposed in the city since the start of the 15-month Palestinian uprising.

Unlike the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where curfews are in effect nearly every day, only four have been imposed in annexed Arab areas of Jerusalem.

"There were reports that people involved in disturbances live in Issawiya. To arrest all of them a curfew was necessary to aid in the searches," police spokesman Uri Sandori told the Associated Press.

But the residents disagreed. "The police could have rounded up the people they arrested in a few hours. There was no reason for a five-day curfew," said Rabia Essawi, a professor at Hebrew University who lives in the village. "This was harassment and revenge. No one can tell us otherwise."

Issawiya residents say police

made most of the arrests during house-to-house searches Wednesday in which 21 youths were detained for alleged anti-Israeli activities.

Then the tax authorities moved in, confiscating vehicles, televisions and other property, and detaining another 19 villagers who owed back taxes or were behind in loan payments to Israeli banks, the residents said.

"They took hair dryers, irons, a sewing machine, even rugs. They took three trucks; five cars and about 95 per cent of the televisions in the village," said Ms. Essawi, who is an American citizen.

Sandori, the police spokesman, said the tax authorities took advantage of the closure to confiscate property from residents who owed back income, municipal and broadcast authority taxes.

"They took things from houses that were owed to them," he said.

But Ms. Essawi and other residents said the tax collectors went to every home in the village, regardless of whether they owed taxes or not.

Israeli troops clashed with commandos in South Lebanon Monday, killing at least three, meanwhile, a suspected Palestinian collaborator was found beaten to death and two Arab teenagers were shot and wounded in the occupied territories.

Israeli soldiers shot and killed three Arab commandos after a pre-dawn clash for several hours through the hills of South Lebanon, the army and Israeli news reports said.

But a Lebanese police spokesman said four guerrillas were killed in Monday's fighting. The spokesman said they apparently were Palestinians trying to carry out a raid into Israel.

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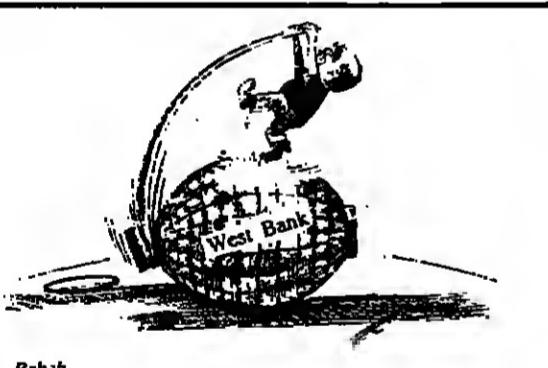
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No solution in handouts

THE WORLD Food Council's (WFC) latest report on the grave famine threat in the developing world should be a jolt to the international conscience, and prompt all concerned governments and people to wake up from slumber and adopt an immediate course of action to save millions of threatened lives. There must be a firm political commitment at the highest level to make the human condition and welfare the focus of the development process, because hunger is rooted in the bigger dilemma of poverty and underdevelopment plaguing these countries. That is why, according to the WFC report, limited-scope relief programmes are inadequate in seriously addressing the crisis. If anything, such programmes raise false hopes while the root causes of the problem remain unscathed. Pumping short instalments of relief only keeps the developing world forever underdeveloped, particularly that, more often than not, relief action is often initiated after the situation reaches deadly proportions.

Conspicuous by its sheer absence is a global strategy aimed at self-reliance in food for individual countries. Relief handouts should not be the answer; they would only be doses of morphine for already drugged patients. Food airlifts to hungry countries have failed to crush the famine threat that they face year after year. But it is definitely wrong to only blame developed countries because some stricken countries' governments and people exacerbate the already serious situation. In countries such as Sudan, Ethiopia and Afghanistan, the main recipients of food aid, internal strife has blocked immediate assistance to the needy and has impeded urgently needed development. Civil wars and political fends take their heaviest toll on funds that the governments and people can ill-afford.

The WFC report calls upon the developed nations to assist in terms of real development of these countries and not just with temporary handouts if only because the continuously hungry cannot think of development on an empty stomach. At the same time, the countries suffering from the throes of famine and those who are vulnerable to drought and other natural calamities should also realise that the major burden lies with them. It seems quite appropriate to quote the common adage, "don't expect anyone to help you if you don't help yourself." Famine is not always in the divine order of things but mostly a man-made disaster, therefore every human effort should be made to correct these mistakes because it really is a matter of life and death.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

In an editorial Monday Al Ra'i daily comments on Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens's visit to Washington which will mark the first official contact between the new U.S. administration and the Israeli government. The paper said that the visit coincides with a dialogue going on in the American capital now between PLO and Israeli parliament members and will be followed by a visit to the United States by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The paper said that all these contacts regardless of their immediate achievements are regarded as a positive development helping to activate the peace process. The talks in Washington can help put an end to Israel's extremism and can open the way for the long awaited Middle East peace conference, the paper noted. It said that the Middle East issue can no longer be kept on the shelf and added that the East-West detente as well as a world-wide support for the convening of the international conference are bound to help the cause of peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Riyadh and says it is being held at a time when Muslims are confronted by the Middle East question, Afghanistan, Lebanon and other issues of concern to the Arab and Islamic countries. Abdul Rahim Omar hopes that the foreign ministers in Riyadh will tackle all these issues and come out with solutions which can bring peace to the Islamic region. He says that the present East-West detente should prompt the Arabs and Muslims to double their efforts and seek help from all major nations to settle the regional conflicts for good. The writer also says that the ceasefire in the Gulf, the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan were two favourable developments but should be followed by other positive steps to end the bloodshed in Lebanon and Afghanistan and bring peace to the Arab and Muslim world.

Al Dustour daily tackled a statement by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan delivered at the development council meeting in Ramtha Sunday. Prince Hassan's participation in the deliberations and the attention he drew to the importance of the local council's contributions to national development were clear signs of his deep concern over domestic issues and his hopes to see meaningful economic activity and more and closer cooperation among various authorities to attain higher performance and more production, the paper said. The paper also referred to the formation of the Unified Economic Council for which Prince Hassan voiced support and backing, and it said that such council was essential to coordinate and supervise matters related to the national economy.

Middle East role in future global energy scene

By HRH Crown Prince Hassan

The following is an address by Crown Prince Hassan to the Middle East Forum on energy held in Amman last month.

It is appropriate that the World Energy Conference would hold its first ever Regional Energy Forum in Amman, a central capital in the Arab World, and that this meeting he called the "Middle East Energy Forum." The Middle East, containing the vast majority of the World's crude oil reserves, played and will continue to play the major role in the international energy area.

Now, while looking towards the 1990's, it is appropriate that we start defining our priorities and issues in the energy field and the role that the Middle East will play in these.

I can define the most important future features of the global energy scene as follows:

— The growing importance and awareness of the environment in energy decisions.

— The new unity and pragmatism of OPEC.

— The resurgence in energy demand world-wide and particularly in developed countries.

— The limitations of technology in developing new global alternative energy sources.

— The growing proven oil reserves in the Middle East.

I would like to dwell briefly on these five main issues before moving into outlining their implications to our universe.

Public awareness of energy usages and their effect on the environment are probably going to be the major factors in energy investment decisions. The greenhouse effect, and its implications to our universe, has become a major socio-political issue which no responsible government can anymore ignore. It has been suggested that fossil fuels, mainly coal usage, accounts for half the increase in the greenhouse gases

in the atmosphere, mainly carbon dioxide, with its lasting effect on the future of our planet and the manipulation of its climate, while humans are in the test tube.

Although the dangers may be exaggerated, and our awareness and worries still lack scientific proof, yet the message is clear that no responsible government can afford to ignore the rapidly increasing public awareness caused by the rising amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The implications of this environmental awareness would definitely limit the role which the abundant global reserves of coal can play in future energy supplies.

Also of environmental concern is the possibility of leakages and radiations caused by weaknesses in standards and complacency in precautions at nuclear power plants, which may perhaps as well limit the future share of nuclear energy in the global energy mix.

Our awareness of the need for international cooperation regarding the environment has prompted us to organise a major international seminar on the environment to be held in Amman, in association with the Beijing Institute on the Environment and Energy in Sweden and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait, in which these major global issues would be discussed.

The second issue in the global energy scene is that of the growing unity and pragmatism which has never been experienced before in the OPEC ranks. I am not going to dwell on this topic knowing that it would be more amply dealt with by the keynote address of H.E. Mr. Issam Al Chalabi, but must say that this new spirit of OPEC, if I can call it so, helped to stabilise oil prices and allowed us to avoid the volatility which characterised the oil markets during the past years, and its damaging

effects on the producers and consumers alike.

The third major development, which we witnessed during the last few years, was the increasing demand for energy worldwide. The total energy demand, which did globally decrease by 0.4 per cent per year from 1979 to 1985, increased by as average of 2 per cent annually in the last three years. More significantly the oil demand of the OECD countries which decreased by 3.3 per cent per year for the entire period from 1974 to 1985, reversed this trend and increased by 2.1 per cent per year from 1986 to 1988. Most of this increase was supplied by OPEC countries.

This reversal of trends is very significant. In the international forum we held in 1986 on Energy and Arab Development, there was a school of thought which saw in 1979-1985 trend a dichotomy between global economic growth and energy demand. The events of the last three years reversed this trend and we are now seeing, once more, gearing between growth and energy usage.

With the rampant world economic growth expected in the 1990's, particularly in Europe, the importance of availability and stability of energy supplies is going to confront us once more as one of the most important issues in our economic growth agenda.

Our globe is now witnessing economic growth which has never been experienced before. The world growth forecast of 2.8 per cent for 1988 had to be revised upward to 3.2 per cent, a rapid growth which our universe probably never experienced before. With this global growth, international trade increased at almost twice this rate, 6 per cent increase in real terms in 1988 over 1987; and accompanying this growth in

the international economy and trade, a similar, even larger, growth is taking place in the electrical and electronic fields, worldwide. All of this calls for increasing supplies of energy; the role of the Middle East in satisfying these growth strategies is obvious to all intelligent observers.

My fourth point is about the limitations of technology. For the last fifteen years, and since the rise of oil prices at the end of 1975, we witnessed a change in the contribution of the main components to the global energy mix, but more importantly, we saw significant new entrants. In 1974 the world energy mix consisted mainly of crude oil, gas, coal, nuclear, and hydropower. In 1989, it is still the same oil, gas, coal, nuclear, and hydropower and will remain so for many decades to come.

The striking fact is that it takes fifty years for technology to develop a new source of energy of any significant global proportions. Well into the next century, we shall still have crude oil, gas, coal, nuclear, and hydropower as the global energy mix. The proportions in the mix may change, but changes will be only small and very slow. Coal usage will encounter major environmental problems and opposition, and its proportion in the mix may slightly decline; further nuclear energy usage is suffering, and will continue to suffer, from public and political apprehension and the colossal investment requirements of nuclear facilities. Hydropower opportunities have been mainly utilised and new additions would be very limited and costly.

At the beginning of the next century oil and gas will remain the main components in the global energy mix with oil contributing almost one-third of the global energy requirements and gas slightly less, but most likely doing better, than coal. Crude oil has been and will remain with us, probably for the next two decades, as the most important contributor to the global energy menu.

Technology, research, and development are going to discover new oil and enhance the productivity of depleting wells, but this is going to be slow, limited, and very expensive. The only large, viable, and economic reserves of crude oil available to our universe are those of the Middle East.

The conclusions of my five global indicators are clear. Oil is and will, for many years to come, remain as the main source of energy for our universe; the vast majority of this oil lies in this part of the world.

The political and economic repercussions are both important and critical. For oil to continue to fuel the human development and world economy, it is essential that it should be fairly valued and with no further volatility in its pricing. The growing pragmatism of the OPEC as producers has to be matched with similar restraint in the non-OPEC oil exporting countries. Coordination between OPEC and non-OPEC producers is very useful, but as important is a dialogue between producers and consumers through an open international forum. Therefore, we support the recommendation of the World Commission on Environment and Development for promoting such a dialogue.

The other main conclusion is the need for peace and fairness in the Middle East. The Middle East is going to be the major source of energy to our universe for the coming few decades with no alternatives in sight; its importance as the world's major energy source, would, from the early 1990's, increase year after year. For the Middle East to play this crucial role, the need for peace and tranquility in this very strategic part of our universe is imperative.

Bush moves to reassert his presidency after Tower rejection

By Michael Gelb
Reuter

WASHINGTON — George Bush is no stranger to defeat and this may be a major asset as he seeks to reassert his presidency after the Senate's rejection of his nomination of John Tower as Defense Secretary.

Beaten in two Senate elections, defeated by Ronald Reagan in the fight for the 1980 Republican presidential nomination and trounced in the first battle of the 1988 presidential contest, Bush's pattern after each setback was to roll up his sleeves and go back to work.

"I am an optimist, convinced that no matter how bad a situation might look, something good can come of it. It's ingrained, part of my nature," he wrote in his autobiography "looking forward."

"This was the wrong fight for the Democrats," said democratic political strategist Robert Beckel, who managed Walter Mondale's 1984 presidential campaign. "No body can walk away from this and proudly say 'Look what I got' when the prize is a pound of human flesh."

Bush has moved quickly to get his presidency back on track from its first major blow, nominating respected Wyoming congressman Dick Cheney as Defense Secretary on Friday — just 24 hours after the Senate rejected Tower.

He pledged to put aside bad feelings about the Democratic-controlled Senate's treatment of his original choice, saying: "That's over, that's history. And now we are going to move forward."

Stressing the need of his administration to co-operate with the Senate and House of Representatives on defence matters, he added: "There's no point in dwelling on what happened."

Bush plans to return to the busy-leader image this week with speeches pushing his budget, environmental and education agendas.

Despite criticism of the Tower affair and charges that his administration is adrift after just seven weeks in power, Bush has maintained a relaxed and genial public stance which has filtered down to his staff.

"Most of us have been around Washington for a while. We know there's ebb and flow," one senior White House official said. "We have a lot of confidence in him and in ourselves."

In one sense, the end of the Tower imbroglio seems likely to improve morale at the White House by lifting the burden of a seemingly hopeless cause and enabling the administration to concentrate on other issues.

About the only man in Washington interested in continuing the row seems to be Vice President Dan Quayle who accused Senate Democrats of resorting to "McCarthyite mud-slinging" in a bid to undermine the presidency and derail Tower.

"Everyone understands that

Reforms take Poland towards parliamentary democracy

By Andrew Tarnowski
Reuter

WARSAW — Poland's Communist leaders have taken the first step towards parliamentary democracy, inviting the opposition into parliament and agreeing to free elections for a new upper house.

After nearly 45 years of Communist rule since World War II, the extent of the measures announced on Thursday stunned even the Solidarity negotiators with whom they were agreed in weeks of hard bargaining on political reform.

"I never thought we would reach this stage," said Bronislaw Geremek, the banned trade union's top political negotiator at the five-week-old talks.

A new 98-member senate will be elected in June, becoming the first parliamentary body in the Soviet bloc in which the Communists and their allies have no built-in majority.

Its powers have not yet been agreed but it is expected to have a watchdog role and limited veto rights over the Sejm (lower house) on economic and social policy and human rights.

Creation of the senate will coincide with the opposition's entry into the Sejm. Under an

electoral pact between the Communists and Solidarity, which is to be re-legalised under the reforms, the opposition will have 35 per cent of the 460 seats.

The two houses will jointly elect a French-style executive president — expected to be general Wojciech Jaruzelski, Polish leader since 1981 — but their significance may be greater.

"There's no doubt that this is a transitional arrangement and the next Sejm elections will be 80 per cent free," said Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, a Sejm deputy for the Peasant Party which is allied to the Communists.

"It's obvious that if nothing dramatic happens over the way in the next four years we'll be on the way to full parliamentary democracy in the following elections," he said.

"The Communists will have to start preparing themselves for quite a new situation."

Western diplomats in Warsaw also say the new institutions, particularly the senate, herald a move towards democracy and put Poland in the forefront of reform in East Europe.

"There are very considerable forces in the leadership hoping that this new arrangement will stabilise the party's hold on power," he added.

But internal party opposition secretaries this week voted against a freely-elected senate. The politburo is expected to summon the policy-making central committee next week to vote on

the reform package agreed with the opposition.

But there are doubts that even this will galvanise a deeply demoralised nation to rally behind government-opposition reforms, revive the economy and avert unrest.

"I don't think these changes will have much impact," Kozakiewicz said. "Most of society is only interested in the economic situation."

If the economy deteriorates further this year, which is possible, then the influence of these reforms on the country will be weaker and weaker."

A Western diplomat agreed. "The economy is the biggest threat," he said. "It's a sword of Damocles hanging over everyone."



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Paying homage to a great Arab composer

By Nelly Lama

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The 14th of March marks the 5th anniversary of the death of the renowned organist, composer and music professor Salvador Armita. The name might sound familiar to all those who attended the American University of Beirut — AUB since 1949. They often had the occasion of bearing him play the organ or conduct a choir or an orchestra at the Assembly Hall.

Prior to 1949 Armita was working hard preparing for his career in music. He started to play the piano and organ at a very early age. Tutored by the great master of the organ, Augustine Lama, he became assistant organist in The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, his hometown, when he was only thirteen. Five years later he moved to Alexandria in Egypt where he became organist and choirmaster at St. Catherine's cathedral. It was in 1934 that he finally had the opportunity to go to Italy for official academic training, to study piano and composition at the Academia Santa Cecilia in Rome with Alfredo Casella and to study the organ with Fernando Germani. He was awarded the L.A.S.C. degree in Rome in 1935. His increasing

interest in choral and orchestral music led him to study at the Guildhall School of Music with Sir Landon Ronald. In 1936 he graduated with distinction and was awarded the L.G.S.M. degree. Having finished his studies, Armita returned to Jerusalem where he was appointed Music Director of Jerusalem YMCA, a position which he retained until 1948. It is imperative to mention here that the organ there was the largest in the Middle East, 3600 pipes, and it had a carillon tower. The bynames Armita played on the carillon could be heard all over Jerusalem.

In 1949 he joined the AUB as organist, lecturer and choir director. He re-organized and enlarged the choir by opening it to community members and assembled an orchestra of professional musicians. This enabled him to undertake more elaborate works to be performed at Christmas and Easter, presenting works such as "The Messiah," "Creation" and other oratorios. He also produced operettas such as Menotti's "Ahmadi" and the Night Visitors" "Waltz Dream" by Oscar Strauss, etc.

In spite of his busy schedule, Professor Armita did not neglect his interest in orchestral music and composition. Throughout his

life he composed 200 pieces: Three symphonies, four concertos (for piano, organ, flute and viola), two suites, three piano trios, a few string quartets, several oriental dances, solo works for piano, organ, violin, violoncello, oboe and string orchestra. He also composed an Arab cantata known as Cantata Dramatica or "Identity Card" written for a full symphony orchestra, with a choir of 74. It is based on the poem of Mahmoud Darwish "Sajje and Arabi" (Write down, I am An Arab).

Armita's own explanation of this masterpiece runs as follows: "The Cantata is composed in the classical tradition. It has two main themes. The first is based upon two diminished intervals and the second relies on contrapuntal development. The first theme appears seventeen times, augmented in time values, ornamented and inverted throughout the orchestra and the voices. The second theme appears first as a fugal exposition and is followed by a canon section in two parts for male and female voices. The middle section makes use of three folk songs. The Ice Cream Vendor, The Coffee maker, The Man with the plaid hair. The final section is preceded by Taqsim, an oriental

improvisation, played on the Kanoon. The music then moves towards a triumphal climax of soloist, choir and orchestra."

This Cantata was first performed under his direction in Cairo on July 17, 1970, at Sayyed Darwish Hall, with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra and the Choir of the Opera House. Another cantata was based on Said Akl's poem "The throne of Lebanon."

European tours

Salvador Armita made several European tours performing as organ virtuoso with the BBC in the promenade concerts under the direction of Sir Henry Wood, 1939, with the Paris P.T.T. orchestra under the direction of Henry Tomasi and with the Rome Symphony Orchestra under Bernardino Molinari. He also played at the Salle du Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels for the late King Leopold of Belgium and was awarded the Legion d'Honneur. He won the Premier Prix de Rome on an improvised theme submitted to an international jury. He has conducted several concerts in Italy, Hungary, France, England, USA, Egypt and Jordan.

Throughout his life he worked conscientiously and with utter devotion to his music, following the

Salvador Armita

French motto "Bien ou Rien."

Working by his side, since 1947, was his wife, Yusra Jawharieb, a musicologist in her own right, who taught music at the AUB for 12 years and wrote the book "Popular Arts in Palestine." Mrs. Armita is well-known in Jordan for her intrinsic role in establishing the Jordan National Conservatory of Music in which she stresses the revival and formal study of the various Arabic instruments. After her return from Harvard University where

she carried out a research into the orchestration of Arabic music, she led Salvador to share her love for Arabic music. He then sought to integrate old modal forms of it into Western compositions. He introduced quarter tones and Arabic instruments into his symphonic compositions, and always tried to find the Arabic instruments best suited to perform with a Western-style orchestra. (He did introduce a folk drummer who played a solo, Arabic style). Together with Yusra, he wrote

two books for school children "Shadi and Shadia" named after their own two children. One of the books was a teacher's guide, the other, music for songs. In an interview with "The Arab Week" magazine in 1981, Armita spoke with pain of a composer's constant need for backing, for financial aid and of the futility of decorating a composer after his death. Many a great Arab composer bears the same pain today; yet how much more painful is their plight since they might not

have behind them a woman as devoted, appreciative and courageous as Yusra Armita, who would work hard to document, record and continue a life's achievement. Yusra bears tribute to her husband's work in her lectures which she illustrates with his compositions. She plays his pieces for children with her young students. Hearing her join a child in a "Quatre Main" composed by him, one cannot but exclaim in awe, "Salvador is still alive in his music."

Growing old in the land of the rising son

A majority of Japan's elderly people still live with their children. By the year 1995, the elderly will exceed 25 per cent of Japan's population. Already "the elder is caring for the elderly" but that is a fact of life rather than a long-term solution.

By Robert L. Anders and Masako Kanai-Pak

GENEVA, Switzerland — It common with many other countries, Japan is experiencing a significant increase in its ageing population. Some 10.2 per cent of its 120 million citizens are over the age of 65 and, by 1995, the total

will exceed 25 per cent. This increase may be even higher because Japanese life expectancy is already the longest in the world.

A majority of elderly people still live with their children. Over 80 per cent of the population

expect their children to care for them when they are elderly, a living arrangement that is very common in East Asian countries.

In 1980, the number of elderly who were bedridden was estimated to be 438,000. Out of this number, their children cared for 307,000 and 131,000 were confined to hospital beds. About 88,000 older persons were living in nursing homes, and a total of 219,000 were living in other kinds of institution.

Even though the elderly express a desire to live at home, it

appears that slightly less than 50 per cent are in institutions. Apparently when the level of care required by the elderly increases, the number of families able to provide such care decreases.

In Tokyo, where the population is approaching 18 million,

one of the major problems is

having a home or apartment large enough to accommodate both the elderly parents and the other family members. Housing is

already a critical issue because of the limited availability of land.

With the increase in the ageing

population, it is going to be

almost impossible for most families to afford homes large enough

for both them and their parents.

As women gain additional

education, the size of their family

decreases. Since 1950, the number of children per family has

dramatically decreased. The

higher education and economic

level for both men and women

means that, in the long run, the

elderly will have to look more

and more to the community for

their care.

In fact, the number of elderly

living with their children, particularly in the big cities, is already

beginning to decrease. This trend

is also occurring in the countryside, where a greater percentage

(more than 12 per cent) of the

population are aged over 65. The

children of these elderly people

have moved to the cities in order

to secure jobs, and this leaves the

parents with fewer options avail-

able when they become unable to care for themselves.

In Japan, as in other developed

nations, the tendency towards

"old caring the older" is also

occurring. It is quite common to

find the eldest son and/or his

wife, who may be in their early

seventies, caring for a parents in

their late eighties or early nineties.

This trend of the elder caring

for the elderly seems to have only

began.

Understandably, therefore,

caring for the elderly is becoming

a major concern for the citizens

of Japan. Since a significant num-

ber of the elderly are currently in

need of life care (home health,

retirement centres, nursing

homes), and to provide the family

caretaker with a break from providing

the daily care. Obviously, the num-

ber of these centres will have to

increase considerably if this ser-

vice is to have any positive impact

on the elderly.

The number of nursing home

beds will also need to increase in

the not-too-distant future. In

1984, it was estimated that there

were only 70,000 nursing home

beds in the entire nation. More

than 100 nursing homes have

been opening each year but, be-

cause of the increasing number of

frail elderly, the shortage has not

been significantly reduced. Most

facilities still have long waiting

lists.

The ministry of health has in-

cluded in its goals the develop-

ment of intermediate care facil-

ties to look after impaired elder-

ly. These should relieve the hos-

pitals from the task of providing

long term care for elderly pa-

tients, most of whom at present

have no other option but to re-

main in hospital.

But what options does the min-

istry of health itself have to en-

sure that health care for the eld-

erly is comprehensive? The pos-

ibilities include:

Care homes, individually owned

and run by their bedridden eld-

erly with a place to live as well

as basic home-maker services.

They would also benefit individ-

uals who have no family to sup-

port them.

Respite care, enabling the fami-

ly to bring their bedridden eld-

erly into a nursing home setting

for a short period of time. The short

stay would offer the caregiver a

break from providing daily care

and support, and enable the care-

taker family to take occasional

vacations without worrying about

the old person's welfare.

Day health care programmes to

provide skilled nursing care for

the elderly in day-care setting. In

the evenings and on weekends, the

patient would return home to the

family. With this approach, the

patient would not need to live in

a nursing home but could receive

the necessary skilled care.

Geriatric assessment centres,

probably based in hospitals, would evaluate each patient's

problems so as to identify where

conditions needed improvement

and to make treatment simpler,

thus helping the individual to

function better at home.

Nursing homes, not based on a

medical model but designed

around a social system model of

care. The emphasis would be on

social interactions, patient well-

U.S. government repeats pledge to stay out of Eastern strike

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of people who took advantage of Eastern Airline's \$12 tickets for the New York, Washington and Boston shuttle were stranded early Monday in three cities as the strike-crippled carrier expanded flights to Latin America.

The administration of President George Bush, meanwhile, reiterated its determination to stay out of the 10-day-old strike by Eastern's 8,500-member machinists union.

"We are not in the business of running Eastern Airlines or negotiating the contract for labour," U.S. Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner said on CBS Television's "Face the Nation."

Eastern trumpeted the reopening of flights to seven Latin American cities Sunday as a new start for the troubled airline, which filed for bankruptcy protection last week after most of its 3,600 pilots honoured picket lines.

The carrier launched 75 flights Sunday and hopes to boost that number to 140 a day by the end of the week, compared with a pre-strike schedule of 1,040 a day, spokesman Robin Matell said.

Eastern's three-day offer of

bargain fares on the Washington-New York-Boston shuttle attracted 8,000 passengers Friday, 11,000 Saturday and 12,500 Sunday, said John Siebert, vice president for the shuttle.

About 250 passengers were stuck at New York's Laguardia Airport late Sunday. 200 failed to get on flights from Boston's Logan International Airport and at least 100 were turned away at Washington's National Airport.

Debbie McLoughlin of New York planned to spend the night at the Logan terminal.

"It's got to be an adventure," McLoughlin said.

Most of those left at Laguardia were promised a seat on an Eastern flight Monday morning or flew on Pan Am's rival shuttle, said port authority police Lt. Alexander Harvey.

"When Eastern said 'that's it,' these people went over to Pan Am," said Harvey, whose agency

runs the airport. Pan Am added a flight to Washington and chartered two buses to Boston, he said.

David Hess, a spokesman at Washington's National Airport, said some passengers waited five hours for seats. About 40 were spending the night at the airport.

Eastern maintained that passengers knew what they were getting into when they bought the cheap tickets.

"Those people were not stranded. We advertised the flights were on a first-come, first-serve basis," Matell said. "I'm sorry they have to wait for the next flight, but they should have gotten there earlier."

One pilot on a picket line at Logan said he held no animosity toward shuttle passengers, but he questioned Eastern's strategy in slashing fares.

"They're trying to warn the house by burning the furniture to keep people coming," said pilot Dennis Caldwell.

Eastern also intended to resume thrice-daily flights between Miami and Puerto Rico Monday along with service to Montreal, then add direct jet flights later this week between Washington and Boston.

Dennis Caldwell

Eastern's unions have accused Frank Lorenzo, chairman of Eastern parent Texas Air Corp., of trying to cannibalise the airline. Pilots and flight attendants have honoured machinists' picket

lines, which went up when the union refused to grant \$125 million in concessions to the airline.

The airline claims it is losing \$4 million a day, but Lorenzo was quoted in Monday's Wall Street Journal as predicting the airline would come out of bankruptcy proceedings with its Atlanta, Georgia, hub and its operations from the north east to Florida and Latin America intact.

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"That seemed to end that beautiful run we had for a few years."

It's too early to look for bargains in buying a mink coat off the rack. Sewing the coat into garments is skilled work, and labour costs — like retailers' markups — are high.

Danish breeders produce 35 per cent of all mink furs sold in the West. Last year, they sold 12.4 million mink pelts, up from

Danish fur business faces hard times

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — In Denmark, the world's top mink breeder, pelts are selling at below break-even levels this season, and more than just prices are depressed.

Overproduction, warm weather and a long campaign by animal-rights activists have pushed many of Denmark's 5,000 fur farms to the brink of bankruptcy.

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Danish breeders produce 35 per cent of all mink furs sold in the West. Last year, they sold 12.4 million mink pelts, up from

19.1 million in 1986. But falling prices reduced income from \$394 million to \$282 million.

It's hard to determine the damage done by the anti-fur campaigners, who have been known to spray paint the fur coats of unsuspecting women in the street.

"Certainly they hurt us," said Lester Taffer, a 59-year veteran of the trade. "They murdered us in Germany and other places."

The protests began in the 1960s to save wild animals from traps, but the scope later widened to include animals bred for their fur.

The London-based International Fur Trade Federation has launched a counter-campaign to promote the fur industry in brochures and films.

A global fraternity of fur buyers assembled last month in Copenhagen to bid for raw materials that will become the luxuriant apparel in the shops this autumn.

Danish fur farming began in the 1920s with wild mink im-

ported from North America and fed on the abundance of fish caught in Danish waters.

After World War II, mink production rose steadily, and Denmark rose to become the world leader. Production has tripled since 1980, but the glut is threatening many breeders.

Two consecutive warm winters have added to furriers' woes. Everyone in the trade is praying for an extended late-winter cold snap to stimulate demand for fur clothing.

"Hong Kong and other large consumers of raw pelts have thus far been purchasing conservatively, protecting themselves against a further drop in prices," said William Frick, who represents a major Hong Kong company.

"Eventually, then the market gains confidence and orders are placed, we'll see a turnover of garments we've never seen before. Low prices today will benefit tomorrow's consumer," he said.

Soviets convert 40 per cent of arms industry to produce consumer goods

MOSCOW (R) — Forty per cent of the Soviet arms industry has been converted to civilian production as the country cuts its defence spending, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has said.

In a meeting with western journalists at the Kremlin, Ryzhkov also said the Soviet military budget would be published within 12 to 18 months, as soon as a price reform was completed.

Ryzhkov did not disclose how many Soviet arms factories existed before the conversion to civilian goods began or the present secret figure and the pro-

tection of arms and military technology by 19.5 per cent.

Gorbachev said the steps were needed to bolster an ailing domestic economy which is desperately short of consumer goods.

Ryzhkov's promise that the size of the military budget would be disclosed was similar to pledges by other Soviet officials.

A foreign ministry spokesman said last August that details of the defence budget would be made public within two years. In December, Foreign Minister Eduard

Shevardnadze suggested that disclosures should be made more quickly.

According to figures in the Soviet budget, defence spending has been fixed at 20.2 billion roubles (\$33.1 billion) for the past three years.

But Soviet officials acknowledge that this does not include the cost of military production by the civilian sector. Western estimates say the real figure is in excess of 70 billion roubles (\$15 billion).

Moscow party to tackle critical food shortages

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party will tackle critical food shortages in a special meeting this week that comes amid signs President Mikhail Gorbachev and politburo rival Yegor Ligachev disagree on the solution.

The hottest issue on the agenda of the 300-member Central Committee is Gorbachev's desire to lease state-owned fields to farmers.

In recent appearances, Ligachev has skipped lightly over leasing and emphasised collective farming, the traditional system that has left Soviet consumers standing in line for meat and vegetables.

At the meeting Wednesday and Thursday, the policy-making Central Committee is likely to agree on the need to ease the poverty and isolation of rural life. It also is expected to order the dismantling, at least partially, of an agricultural superministry formed in 1985.

In what appeared to be part of a campaign leading to action against the superministry, the Communist Party daily Pravda on March 6 reprinted citizens' complaints the agency is bureaucratic, ineffective and useless.

The Central Committee will also formally elect the 100 Communist Party members nominated for the nation's new 2,250-member Congress of People's Deputies.

But the meeting's major task is to overcome divisions at the highest levels and to take bold action on the worsening shortages that could derail Gorbachev's entire reform programme.

The "food problem," as it is known in the Soviet Union, means:

— Long lines for limited products of poor quality.

— A distribution system that lets three out of four potatoes rot before they reach the table.

— A grain harvest of 195 million tonnes in 1988 — well below targets — that required the Soviet

Union to spend precious foreign currency to import 36 million tonnes.

— Migration to the cities to escape the inadequacies of rural education, housing, roads, goods and services.

"Today, comrades, the most critical question is, unconditionally, supplying the population, normalisation of the demands of the market," Gorbachev said in a speech in Kiev last month.

"Of all the problems of supplies to the population, the most urgent is food," he said.

Gorbachev has enthusiastically endorsed the idea of allowing families to obtain land under long-term leases from the collective and state farms. He says it will give farmers greater security and incentive.

At an effort to boost the idea, official newspapers abroad with reports like the following, published in Moscow News:

Nikolai Sisolyatin took a lease from a state farm in the Kirov region and began raising 110 steers. "With the help of wives and children, the team mowed grass at night, the best time for that. In contrast, 50 per cent of the fodder at the state farm rotted," it said.

But Sisolyatin was driven out of business by suspicious neighbours, because the bloody experience of collectivisation in the 1930s made peasants distrustful of individual initiative. Moscow News said. Sisolyatin left 30 steers hollowing with hunger when he moved to the city.

Gorbachev insisted to his Kiev audience that ideology is less important than results.

"We must open the door to anyone who is capable of radically changing the situation," he said. "No stereotypes and dogmas must stand in the way of deciding the food problem."

In January, Gorbachev complained that bureaucrats and neighbours who drove the likes of Sisolyatin out of business viewed them as "Rockefellers" seeking

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Sports

U.S. authorities ban S. Africa tour athletes

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — U.S. track and field's national governing body Sunday overwhelmingly upheld a ruling by a special three-man panel to suspend 16 athletes and coaches who participated in a tour of South Africa.

The voice vote was 67-4 by the board of directors of the Athletics Congress, the regulatory body of track and field in the United States.

The athletes and coaches involved participated in three meets last October in South Africa, which is under suspension by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world sanctioning group for the sport, because of its policies of racial segregation, known as apartheid.

Before the vote, several members of the board gave emotional speeches on the matter, and an attorney for two of the athletes, Olympic discus thrower John Powell and Carol Cady, spoke for his clients.

Board member Tomie Campbell, the 1988 Olympic bronze medalist in the men's 110-metre high hurdles, spoke of his close relationship with hurdler Milan Stewart, who made the trip to South Africa.

"He's my best friend," Campbell said. "Before I boarded the plane to go to Seoul (for the 1988 games), he asked me if I would still be his friend if he went on the tour."

"I said he would always be my friend, even though we would be divided on this issue," Campbell said.

Campbell voted in favour of upholding the suspensions. "It was the hardest decision I ever had to make," Campbell said

afterward. "I've been labouring over it for six months."

I had lengthy discussions with him (Stewart) and told him I would vote against him," Campbell said. "He said you do what you have to do."

Campbell said that Steward, who was not present at the board meeting, planned to make another trip to South Africa with a U.S. group shortly.

"He feels he's doing a service to the black there by educating their track and field athletes," Campbell said. "He feels he's giving them strength and education."

On the last South African tour, some athletes and coaches received as much as \$35,000 for the trip, and it is expected that some of those who appear for the second tour will receive as much.

"This is not about money," Campbell said. "For \$30,000 it is not worth it. This is about apartheid."

Edwin Moses, two-time Olympic gold medalist and world record-holder in the 100-metre intermediate hurdles, agreed with Campbell.

"It is a racial issue," Moses said. "There is discrimination there. What's happening there is completely wrong. It's very upsetting.... It's intolerable. I think those who competed there are nice."

Hammer thrower John McArdle, one of the four who voted against the panel's decision, cited the political ramifications of the matter.

"We fought the issue of politics once before — and lost," McArdle said, referring to the U.S.-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Soviets upset Sweden in men's relay

FALUN, Sweden (AP) — Vladimir Smirnov skied a superb classic-style anchor leg in heavy track conditions Sunday to give the Soviet Union an upset victory over world champion Sweden in the men's 40-kilometre (25.8-mile) cross-country relay at the Swedish Nordic ski games. The Soviets' 38.5-second triumph in the last World Cup race of the season moved them past Norway to second place in the final relay standings. Sweden, competing without injured superstar Gunde Svan, had already clinched its ninth consecutive world cup relay crown.

Soviet Union moves to first division

LA CORUNA, Spain (AP) — The Soviet Union won the second division indoor European tennis championship by beating Italy 2-1 in the final match Sunday and moved up to the first division. Massimiliano Narducci of Italy defeated Iosif Krojko of the Soviet Union, 6-2, 7-6, while Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union defeated Oumar Camporse of Italy, 6-4, 7-5. In the decisive doubles match, Cherkasov and Slobodimir Gabrichidze, both of the Soviet Union, defeated Narducci and Camporse, 6-4, 6-4.

Indy 500 receives entries

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Pancho Carter, a veteran of 14 Indianapolis 500 races and a former speedway record-holder, has been named driver of a pair of entries submitted by the Leader Card team for the May 28 race. Carter, 38, will have two Cosworth-powered Lola race cars entered by the Milwaukee race team. Carter joined the team over the winter after a year's absence from Indy-car racing. In 1985, Carter won the pole position for Indy at a then-record 212.583 miles (342.109 kilometres) per hour average. Leader Card is the oldest active Indy racing team, with victories at Indianapolis in 1959 and 1962, both with Rodger Ward as driver. Other entries were received by the speedway for Tero Palmaro of Finland, a second-year driver who last year finished 19th and was the first driver from his country ever to start the 500, and for rookie Didier Theys of Belgium.

Petrovic spearheads Real Madrid cup bid

ATHENS (R) — Yugoslavia Drazen Petrovic, averaging 30 points a match since joining Real Madrid, spearheads the Spanish team's bid to overcome Italy's Snaidero Caserta in the European Cup Winners' Cup basketball final here Tuesday. Petrovic, a shooting guard, joined Real Madrid from Cibona Zagreb at the beginning of the season on a four-year contract. His new club recently recognised his immense contribution by increasing his salary.

Real Madrid, who start odds-on favourite, have won seven European cups and one Cup Winners' Cup and defeated Cibona in the Korac Cup last season. "Real Madrid are clearly the favourites," Caserta's 2.05-metre tall forward Oscar Schmidt told reporters.

Lendl demolishes Edberg

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (R) — Ivan Lendl, the world's top-ranked tennis player, took just 57 minutes to annihilate Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden 6-2, 6-3 in the final of the \$415,000 Scottsdale classic tournament Sunday.

The top-seeded Lendl, who wooed his 57th title, used a steady flow of fierce passing shots to dominate an off-form Edberg from the start.

In Edberg's defence, he is still recovering from a back injury sustained in January during the Australian Open.

Edberg's serve, usually the weapon which sets up his serve-volley attack, failed Sunday as he achieved just a 68 first serve percentage.

Lendl served at 88 per cent, giving up just eight points on his serve in the match. Lendl broke Edberg, seeded fourth, in the third game of the match with a return to the Swede's feet and held on to the lead to serve out the set when Edberg netted a backhand.

Edberg, who won \$29,750, showed some signs of recovery early in the second set, winning

three easy service games to lead 3-2. But Lendl's combination of lobs and passing shots negated Edberg's attempts to rush the net. Edberg saved three break points against him in the crucial seventh game, but dropped serve on the fourth when Lendl with a backhand pass down the line.

Lendl, who earned \$59,500, won the next game at love with an ace, then broke Edberg at love for the match with a backhand crosscourt return.

Afterward, Lendl, who had failed to win a Grand Slam title in 1988, said his confidence has returned.

Lendl, who earned \$59,500, won the next game at love with an ace, then broke Edberg at love for the match with a backhand crosscourt return.

"The Masters in 1987 was the last time I felt this comfortable on court," said Lendl, who claimed the Australian Open title at the start of this year. However, Lendl was not complacent about the ease of his victory.

"The seventh game in the second set was important," Lendl said. "I almost blew it right there. Had I lost that game, we would still be out there probably."

"Edberg was understandably dissatisfied with his performance.

"I won the matches I was supposed to this week, but I lost to the number one in the world which is not the end of the world," Edberg said. "But this is probably the worst match I ever played against Ivan. I didn't have that luck I needed."

Byrne's run finished

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (R) — Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria ended Jenny Byrne's upset streak in the \$250,000 Indian Wells women's tennis tournament with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over the Australian in the final Sunday.

Byrne, ranked 64 in the world, had upset third-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States and compatriot Hana Mandlikova in the semifinals before falling to the fourth seeded Maleeva.

Maleeva, ninth in the world, also had to contend with a slightly sprained ankle, which she said accounted for her desire to win the tournament.

"Maybe my ankle helped me. It made me see how much I wanted to win every match. I showed I was to fight back," said Maleeva, who won \$50,000.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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LOSE ONE, WIN TWO

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

*	K	Q	5	3	2
♦	J	6			
♥	5				
♣	J	7	4	2	

WEST **EAST**

*	7	6			
♦	5		A	J	10
♥	10	5	4	Q	2
♣	K	7	4	3	O

SOUTH

*	10	8	3	—	G
♦	9	8	7	6	5
♥	4	3	2	1	A
♣	5	4	3	2	1

The bidding:

South: West North: East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♡ Pass

2 ♦ Pass 2 ♥ Pass

4 ♣ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠

Expert defenders are few and far between. Here's an opportunity for you to convince us that you belong among the elite few. Tell us how you would defend against four hearts.

North-South reached four hearts on a fairly normal auction. At his second turn North had to choose between a heart preference and a spade rebid. It's a close decision, but we feel North did the right thing.

Partner's spade lead was hardly a thing of beauty—not that it made any difference. On a more normal club lead, declarer could have won

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

—As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: After the morning moves on, get organized for an eventful and energetic afternoon packed with initiative, original and surprising ideas. It is a great time for an intellectual jamboree.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Acquiring material things is not the only way to show that you think it is. You have a feeling of pride and are committed to uphold it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) There is no way to stop the progress of what has already been started. Accept what you have accomplished thus far.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may feel that you are living in a time warp. Pause and give proper attention to organizing the future. Look to the past for clues.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Your heart could skip a beat when you cross paths with someone provocative and stimulating. Turn your head behind the scene before moving ahead. Aries energy tends to accept what you have accomplished thus far.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) The battle of the sexes may penetrate your space. Patience will be required to stay uninvolved. Look forward to a great afternoon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your heart could skip a beat when you cross paths with someone provocative and stimulating. Turn your head behind the scene before moving ahead. Aries energy tends to accept what you have accomplished thus far.

PIRATES (June 22 to July 21) You can hit all the right buttons in your luck and intuition are working for you. Prudence has come interesting diversions.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Respect the knowledge of the people around you. You will hear new information about the future. Get important correspondence in the mail.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are very close to hearing from someone who knows your family well. Cut down on work time, if it cuts into family time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Remember the virtues of rest and the proper use of leisure time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your progeny may leave the home nest early, preferring a carefree, independent lifestyle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are likely to be the one to everyone else's needs. Give yourself a break. If your Child Is Born Today

He or she will be loving, sensitive, and at times, emotional. Your son or daughter will have a romantic nature, find the good in other people, and accept acquaintances at face value. Your progeny may leave the home nest early, preferring a carefree, independent lifestyle.

PIRATES (June 22 to July 21) You are very close to hearing from someone who knows your family well. Cut down on work time, if it cuts into family time.

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Peking extends olive branch to Tibet leader

PEKING (R) — China made a conciliatory offer to Tibet Monday, one week after crushing anti-Chinese protests there, saying it would welcome talks with the exiled Buddhist spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

In the regional capital, Lhasa, residents contacted by telephone said they had been told by officials that martial law, imposed last Tuesday night, could be lifted soon.

"Nothing has been announced but we have learned that martial law could end after a few days," one resident said.

Troops were still patrolling the streets and manning roadblocks. Arrests were being made at night but the city was quiet and shops were reopening, Tibetans said.

China says 16 people were killed last week in three days of pro-independence demonstrations and anti-Chinese rioting but Tibetans say police, shooting at random, killed many more.

A spokesman for the Tibetan regional government in Peking

said it had not been decided when martial law would be lifted.

He confirmed a report in the official Peking Review Monday that China still wanted to hold talks with the Dalai Lama, 53, who fled to India in 1959 after an abortive uprising in the Himalayan region against Chinese rule.

"If the Dalai Lama is willing to hold talks, we welcome it," he said. "As long as he is sincere," he added.

The Dalai Lama — who has never returned to China and is revered as a God-like figure in Tibet — is seen by Western observers as the key figure to making peace in the region.

The Peking Review said China was willing and ready to talk to the Dalai Lama but stood by its position that independence for Tibet could not be discussed and that members of the Tibetan government-in-exile he excluded from the talks.

Western diplomats said China was extending an olive branch in an attempt to defuse tension in Lhasa where residents say more protests are still possible despite the presence of thousands of troops enforcing martial law.

Rightists post gains in West Germany, setbacks in France

ULTRA-right-wing groups campaigning on an anti-foreign platform posted major gains in municipal elections in West Germany's Hesse state but suffered a sharp setback in local polls in France.

In West Germany, provisional results gave the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NDP) a surprising 6.6 per cent of the vote in Hesse's largest city, Frankfurt, where about one-fifth of the population is foreign.

The party last won seats in state assemblies in the 1960s.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) lost ground throughout the state. In Frankfurt, West Germany's financial capital, they slipped to 35 per cent against 50 per cent in 1985 municipal polls.

Six weeks after a CDU-led coalition was voted out of office in West Berlin when an anti-immigrant party siphoned off right-wing votes, Kohl's party saw its share of the poll in Hesse

slump by seven percentage points to an average 33 per cent.

In France, the National Front of Jean-Marie le Pen slumped badly with a national average of seven per cent, according to computer forecasts in the first round of elections for control of more than 36,000 municipalities.

The anti-immigrant National Front scored close to 20 per cent in Metz and Strasbourg, near the West German border, but saw its vote collapse in the southern basins, with the Marseille vote alone losing more than 10 points from 28 per cent in last year's presidential election.

The Socialist government, with 46 per cent, was able to claim a modest victory with its vote only marginally lower despite a wave of public sector strikes.

The centre-right opposition parties, however, dropped to about 50 per cent — down three percentage points from six years ago when they benefited from a wave of public sector strikes.

Rocard stressed during a televised statement that "The government too is fighting for the environment." — Reuter

Gorbachev ideas half-baked — Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — A former senior Kremlin leader, running hard for election to a new-style parliament, told millions of Muscovites Sunday some policies championed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev were half-baked.

Boris Yeltsin, ousted in November 1987 as the capital's Communist Party chief, was speaking in an unprecedented televised debate with his opponent in the race to represent Moscow in the Congress of People's Deputies.

"We have to take full-blooded measures, not half-measures," he replied when asked why he was still calling for reductions in defence spending and the space programme when cuts had already been announced. "These were half-measures."

Yeltsin, 57, in another implicit

criticism of official policies, said capital investment in heavy industry should be cut by 40 per cent "and not by the five to seven per cent suggested by some economists and some other people."

Yevgeny Brakov, director of the huge Zil Car plant, faced in the debate, televised on the Moscow regional network which can be seen by 20 million people in and around the city.

There have been stormy election meetings across the country over the past few weeks but the encounter was the first involving well-known figures standing for an important seat to be televised in an almost Western-style debate.

While the two strongly differed in style — with Yeltsin reflective and slow in responding and Brakov, 51, occasionally showing a

flash of anger — there appeared little substantial difference in their platforms.

Yeltsin, in semi-disgrace since he was dropped as a junior member of the Kremlin's ruling Politburo a year ago, told viewers he was happy "that at last I have been allowed to talk to all Muscovites through television."

Although he has been interviewed on Moscow radio, his supporters said he was being kept off television which reached more people. They also say Brakov is the "official" candidate, backed by the city authorities.

In a reference to this issue, Yeltsin told viewers: "The Moscow city party is using all the powerful propaganda means at its disposal to support one of the two candidates. I do not think this is correct."

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Italy's macho males threatened by campaigning housewives

By Jill Serjeant
Reuter

MILAN — Italy's macho males feel under threat and reckon it time to reassess themselves.

But in a country where most men wouldn't be seen dead carrying a shopping bag, scornful females say the spoilt Italian male has rarely had it so good.

In the same month as the Italian Housewives' Federation announced plans to fight the next general elections, a divorced Milanese entrepreneur was founding the National Association for the Salvation of the Italian Male.

"Italian men have been trampled on by women for far too long. It's time for us to wake up and re-establish our lost supremacy," the association's President Umberto Gallini told Reuters.

Since Gallini placed a newspaper advertisement last month inviting unhappily married men to call his number, the telephone has rarely stopped ringing.

He now has 43 members united in a desire to shake off the yoke of matrimony and campaign for a national referendum to replace life-long commitment with a no-strings, three-year contract renewable only if both parties agree.

"We don't hate women — on the contrary. But they're cunning and sly while men are naive, and when a marriage is over, they rob you for all you've got," Gallini, 45, said.

According to his association the woes of the Italian male began in 1975 when parliament

approved a new family code giving husbands and wives equal rights and duties.

Previously the husband was the legal head of the family and decided where it should live and how the children should be brought up.

"Women are always demanding something but they live longer than men, can retire earlier than men and when marriage is over they get half your money and property and use the children as emotional and financial blackmail."

"Now the Housewives' Federation are gearing up. We men really must be saved," he said.

As well as trying to gather support for a referendum to introduce the three-year contract, the association is organising all-male holidays to exotic destinations such as the Caribbean and Madagascar "where the Italian male is still appreciated."

Hardly surprisingly such talk is guaranteed to ruffle the feathers of the Italian housewives' movement.

Formed only six years ago, the Housewives' Federation now counts 500,000 members dedicated to seeking recognition for the unpaid and unrecognised work that women do in the home.

Male members

To the horror of Gallini's group, they have about 900 male members. Most are widowers or divorced men unable to cope domestically without the female touch but a small number are men who support the cause, or husbands

on the contrary. But they're cunning and sly while men are naive, and when a marriage is over, they rob you for all you've got," Gallini, 45, said.

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said it had not been decided when martial law would be lifted.

He confirmed a report in the official Peking Review Monday that China still wanted to hold talks with the Dalai Lama, 53, who fled to India in 1959 after an abortive uprising in the Himalayan region against Chinese rule.

"If the Dalai Lama is willing to hold talks, we welcome it," he said. "As long as he is sincere," he added.

The Dalai Lama — who has never returned to China and is revered as a God-like figure in Tibet — is seen by Western observers as the key figure to making peace in the region.

The Peking Review said China was willing and ready to talk to the Dalai Lama but stood by its position that independence for Tibet could not be discussed and that members of the Tibetan government-in-exile he excluded from the talks.

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